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CLASSIFICATION <del>SECRET</del> [redacted]		25X1
COUNTRY <u>Soviet Zone of Germany</u>	REPORT NO. [redacted]	25X1
TOPIC <u>Laerz Airfield</u>		25X1
EVALUATION [redacted] PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]		25X1
DATE OF CONTENT <u>mid- to 30 July 1950</u>		25X1
DATE OBTAINED [redacted]	DATE PREPARED <u>15 September 1950</u>	
REFERENCES [redacted]	25X1	
PAGES <u>2</u>	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) <u>1 - sketch on ditto</u>	
REMARKS [redacted]		25X1

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1. The restricted area at Rechlin (N 54/U 33) was occupied by Soviet Air Force troops between 18 and 20 July 1950. [redacted]

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[redacted] the flying personnel, elements of the ground personnel and the administrative company of the Laerz (N 54/U 33) airfield were quartered there. (1)

2. An air force colonel, whose name was Nitovshenko (fnu), [redacted]

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[redacted] has been at the airfield since mid-July 1950. He wore silver epaulets [redacted] Major Shcharnov (fnu) was commanding officer of Rechlin and Laerz and in charge of all maintenance work. (2) [redacted] elements of an air force unit to go to the Wittstock (N 54/U 11) airfield were in Rechlin. He also said that the aircraft that had been stationed in Laerz had been packed in crates and shipped away about 15 July 1950. (3)

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3. On 20 July 1950 the field was occupied by 37 jet fighters with swept-back wings, some of which were covered with tarpaulins, three two-seater jet planes for training, ten single-engine, low-wing monoplanes with radial engines and red propeller hubs, five low-wing monoplanes without engines undergoing repair, and four biplanes. (4) [redacted]

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[redacted] (5) The two-seater jet trainers had straight wings, vortical rudder assemblies and a light blue paint. Seven jet fighters made local flights between 10:30 and 11:10 p.m. They used about half of the runway for the take off. A flare path on both sides of the runway was lit. Two searchlights, fitted on trucks, were at the eastern end of the runway near the take-off point. A small searchlight was switched on shortly before the landing and a larger searchlight, which lighted the entire runway, was put into operation just before the planes touched ground. Both searchlights were switched off while the planes rolled to a stop.

4. Single-engine, low-wing monoplanes, packed in crates, were being loaded on a train by a crane on 16 July 1950 about 2 p.m. Twenty-six crates were counted. The train left at 10:10 p.m. The planes were allegedly to be shipped to Perleberg (M 54/T 70). (3)

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No Change in Class. [redacted]  
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5. Sentries at the field had been considerably increased.

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6. Eight jet planes took off in elements of two about noon on 28 July 1950. They formed a pattern in the air. This formation flight was repeated about four times until 3 p.m. in clear weather.

7. The following aircraft were counted at the field about 7 p.m. on 30 July 1950: 48 jet fighters with swept-back wings; 1 two-seater jet plane; 12 single-seater, single-engine, low-wing monoplanes with radial engines; 5 of which had red and 5 grey propeller hubs; 9 low-wing monoplanes without engines, presumably wrecks, and 5 U-2 biplanes. (u)

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(5) The middle section of the three-sectional cockpit cover slides to the rear. The fuselage was paced off and estimated at 7.2 meters. Two smooth-bore guns of an estimate 20 mm caliber protruded on both sides of the nose wheel.

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Comments.

- (1) The information is probably correct because no large buildings in Laerz are occupied by air force units of the Laerz airfield. For layout sketch of buildings in the restricted area of Rechlin see Annex. The information in the Annex on the utilization of the individual buildings is received for the first time.

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- (2) The names are reported for the first time.

- (3) No reports have been received from either Wittstock or Perleberg indicating that conventional fighters, packed in crates, arrived there.

- (4) The exact number of type 14 jet planes in Laerz is not known. According to previous reports, however, it exceeds 50. In addition to jet planes, conventional IA-9 fighters and some LI-2 transports are stationed in Laerz. The field seems to still be occupied by fighter regiments.

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the headquarters of a fighter division is believed to also be stationed in Laerz.

- (5) there are two fighter regiments at the field.

- (6) This confirms that the occupation of the airfield has not changed.

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1 Annex: 1 - sketch on ditto.

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